

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 11, 2009

Secretary Clinton
Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Madame Secretary:

As you continue to form your Department and craft your agenda, we strongly urge you to address the need for drinking water and adequate sanitation worldwide. The ongoing crises in Darfur, Zimbabwe, and other countries are part of a global water emergency that leaves nearly one billion people without safe drinking water and 2.5 billion people without access to basic sanitation. Without safe water, nations have little hope for long-term economic productivity, women's empowerment, and environmental protection. In the coming decades, climate change will intensify this crisis.

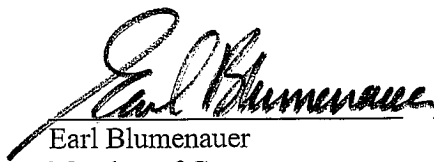
At the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, the United States and 185 other countries agreed to the goal of cutting in half by 2015 the percentage of people without access to safe water and basic sanitation. We have passed the halfway point to this date, yet a recent report by the Center for Strategic and International Studies, *Global Water Futures: A Roadmap for Future U.S. Policy*, concluded that the U.S. has inadequately invested in diplomatic and development efforts.

A framework for U.S. Government response is already in place through The Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005. This bipartisan legislation, linked with appropriations of \$300 million in FY2008, has begun to extend affordable and sustainable water and basic sanitation to poor communities in greatest need. U.S. involvement has galvanized private-citizen contributions and host-governments' investments in the sector.

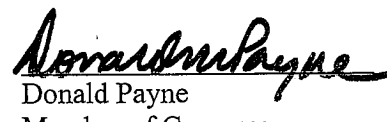
Executive Branch leadership and vision is needed to complement Congressional action. The year 2009 provides a pivotal moment for the United States to offer global leadership and restore our place as a bold and trusted leader. All humanity has a right to this most precious resource; with your support, the U.S. can move to the forefront in addressing perhaps the key human development challenge of the 21st century.


We stand united and ready to work with you.

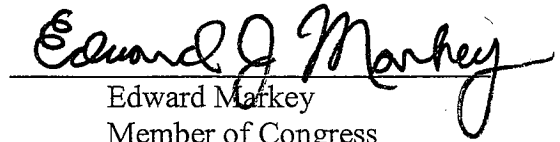
Sincerely,

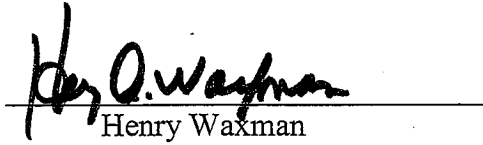

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

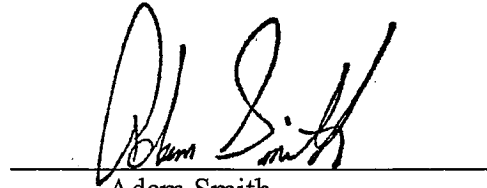

John Linder
Member of Congress



Donald Payne
Member of Congress

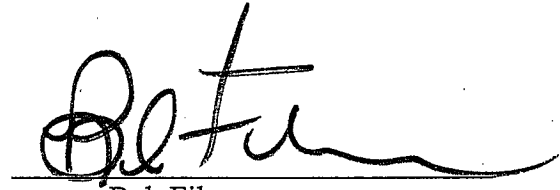

George Miller
Member of Congress

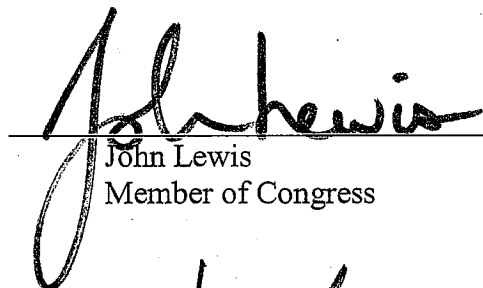

Edward Markey
Member of Congress

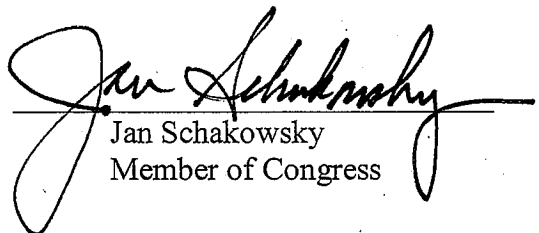

Henry Waxman
Member of Congress

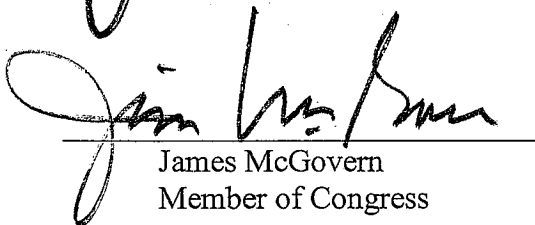

Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Alcee Hastings
Member of Congress

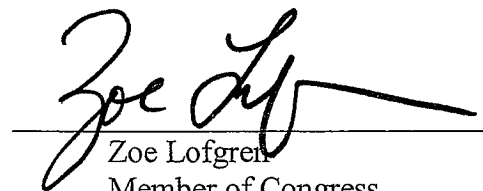

Bob Filner
Member of Congress

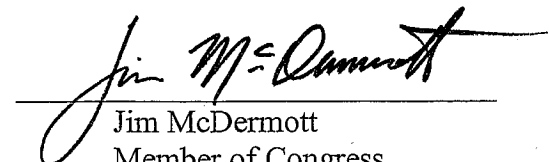

John Lewis
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

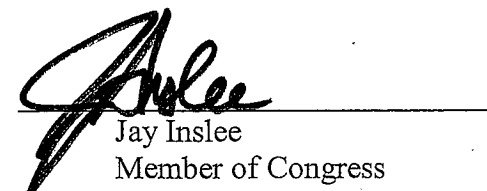

James McGovern
Member of Congress

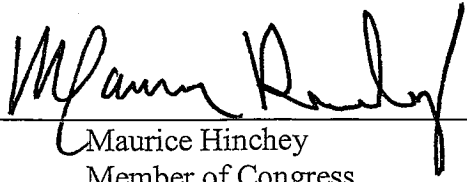

James Moran
Member of Congress

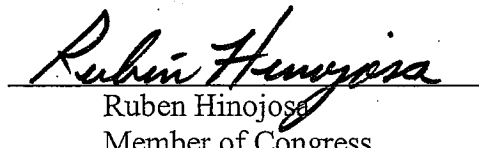

Zoe Lofgren
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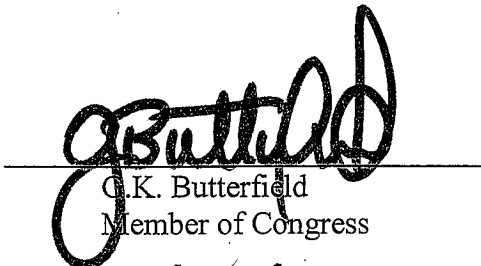

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Anna Eshoo
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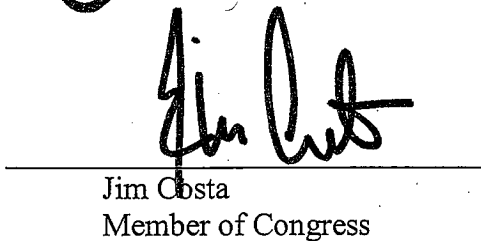

Jay Inslee
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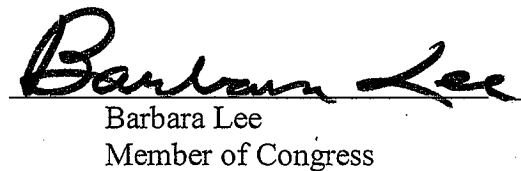

Maurice Hinchey
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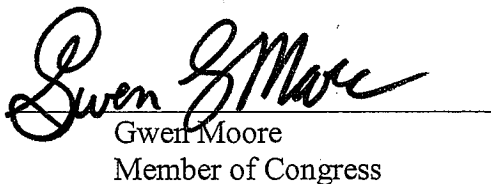

Ruben Hinojosa
Member of Congress

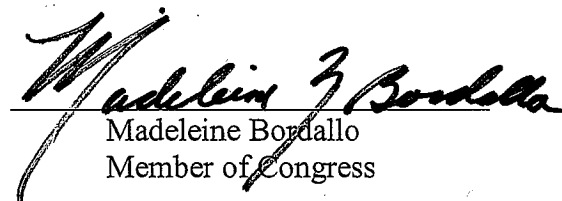

G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

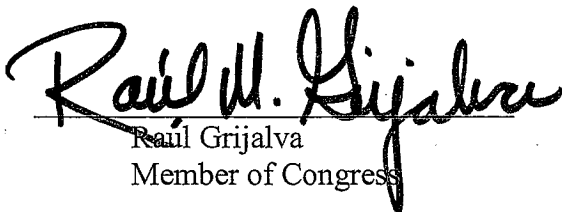

Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

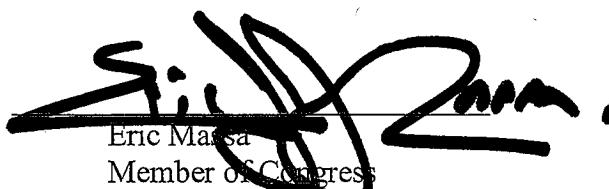

Jim Costa
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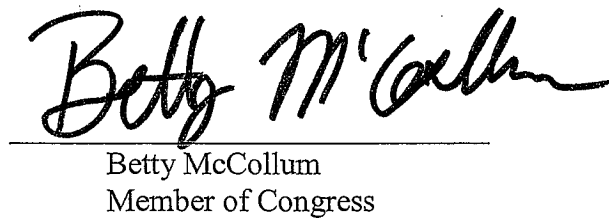

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

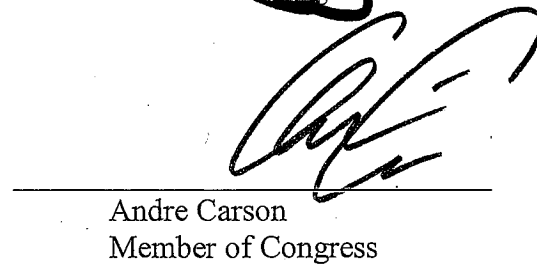

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

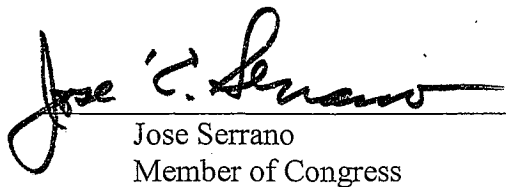

Madeleine Bordallo
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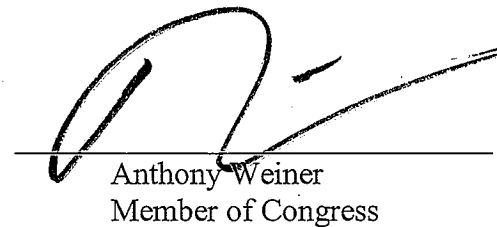

Raul Grijalva
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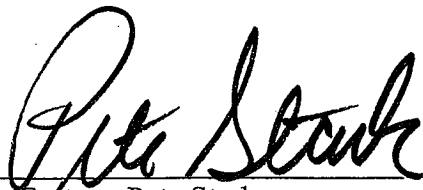

Eric Massa
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Betty McCollum
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Andre Carson
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Jose C. Serrano
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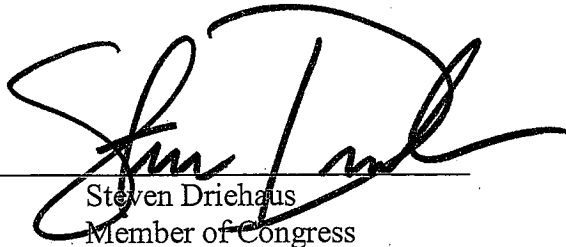

Anthony Weiner
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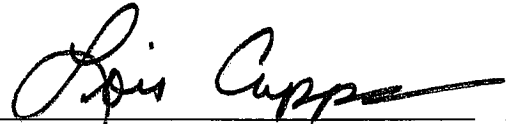
Fortney Pete Stark
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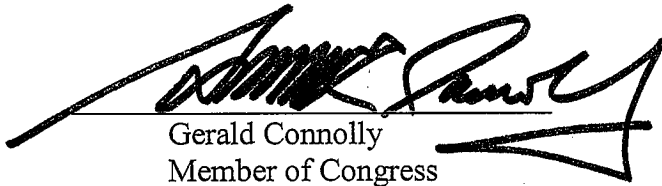
Mike Honda
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Steven Driehaus
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Lois Capps
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Gerald Connolly
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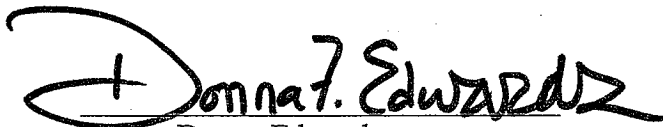
Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



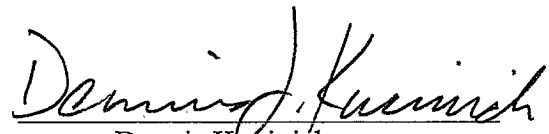
Tim Bishop
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Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Donna Edwards
Member of Congress



Dennis Kucinich
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President Barack Obama
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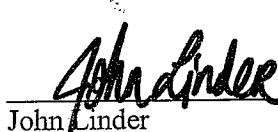
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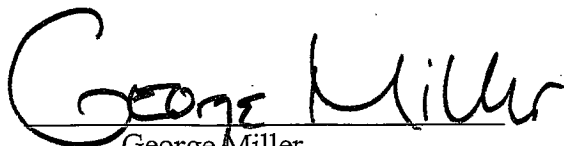
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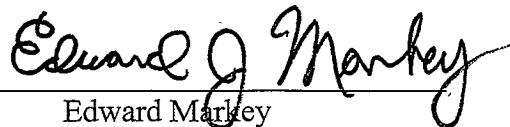
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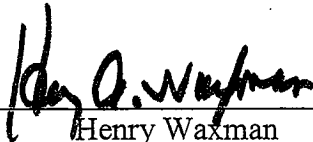
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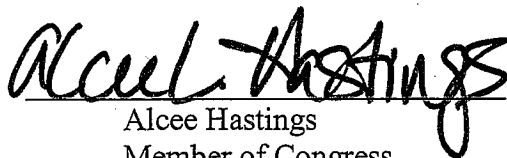
Edward Markey
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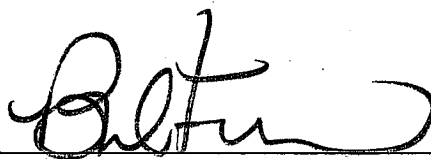
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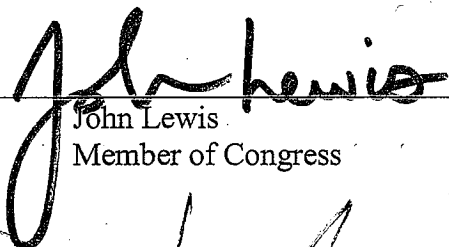
Adam Smith
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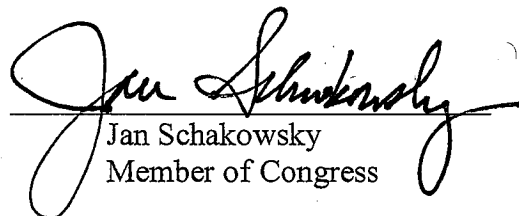
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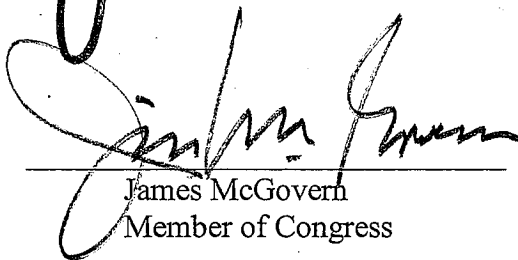
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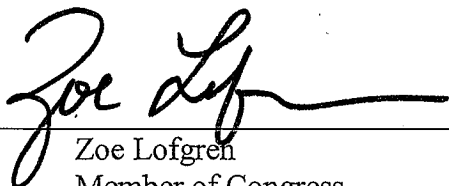
Jan Schakowsky
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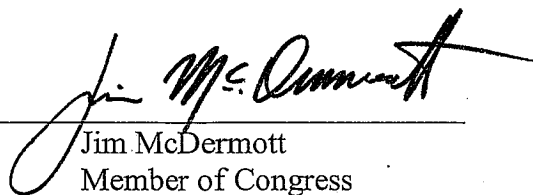
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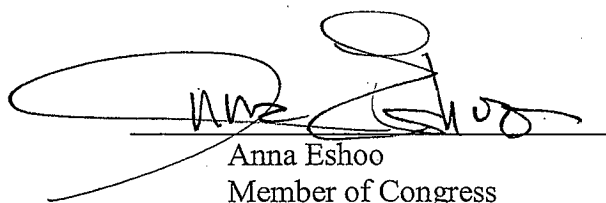
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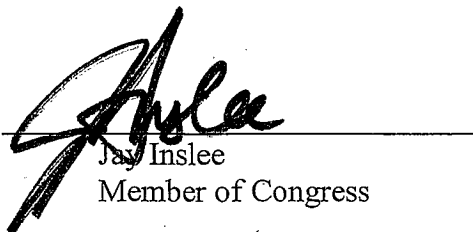
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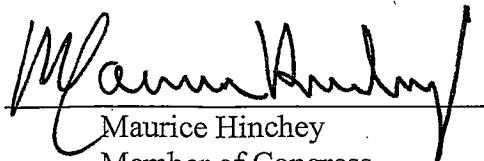
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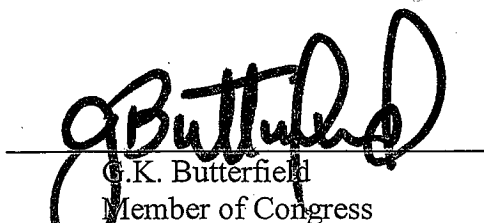
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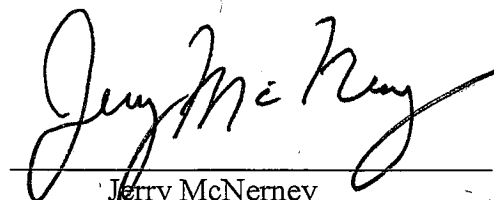


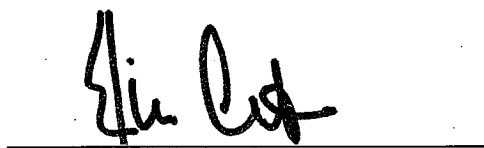
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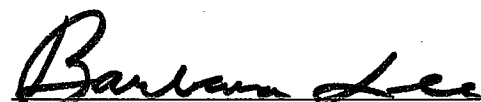

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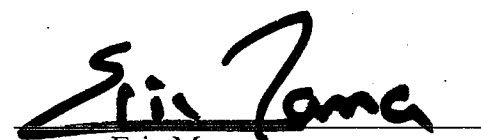

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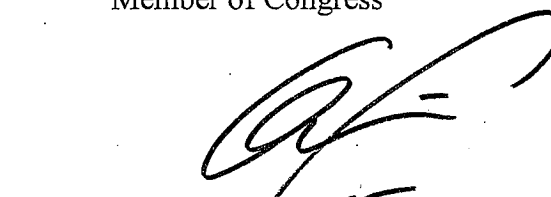

Gwen Moore
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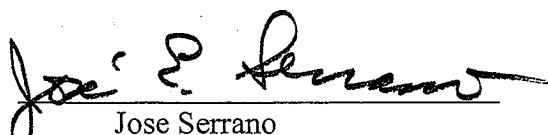

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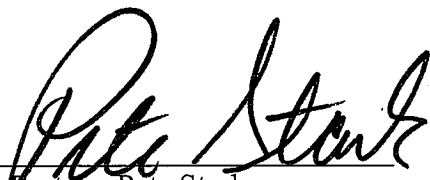

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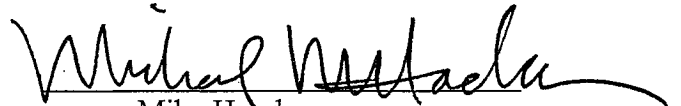

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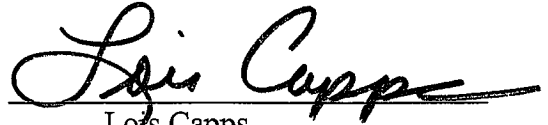
Portney Pete Stark
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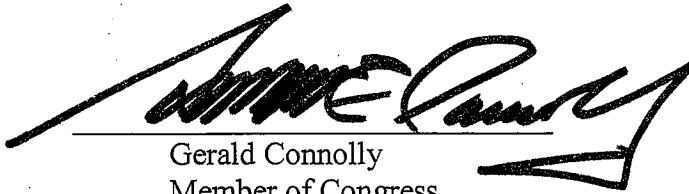
Mike Honda
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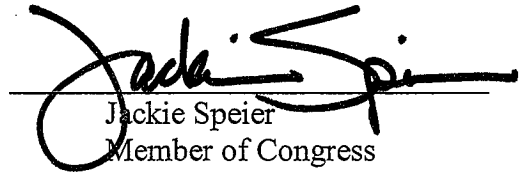
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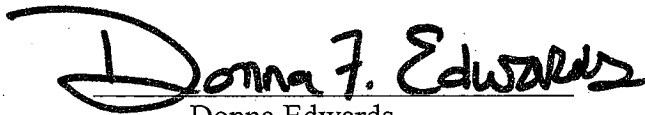
Jackie Speier
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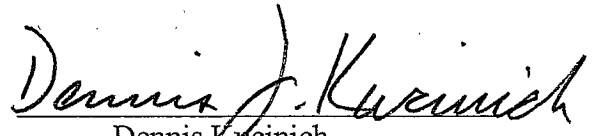
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